

FOREST HEALTH ALERT

From the Missouri Department of Conservation

Finding EAB in Winter



What is the Emerald Ash Borer?

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a small, metallic green beetle native to Asia. EAB kills ash trees in the genus *Fraxinus*, which includes the commonly planted green and white ash. The green adult beetle feeds on leaves and does very little damage to trees. However, in its larval stage, this insect kills ash trees by feeding just under the bark on the vascular tissues, effectively cutting off the movement of water and nutrients. Ash trees typically die from this feeding damage in two to four years.



Where has EAB been detected?

This tree-killing beetle has been found in 42 Missouri counties and is suspected to be present in several more locations. You can find a current map of Missouri counties known to have EAB at eab.missouri.edu.

How can I help find EAB?

While birding, watching wildlife, hiking, or enjoying other outdoor pursuits this winter, keep an eye out for bark blinding on ash trees. Bark blinding is caused by woodpeckers removing a tree's outer bark while searching for insect larvae. On ash trees, this feeding activity reveals a white inner bark that is highly noticeable. Ash trees with bark blinding may not have EAB, but it is certainly worth reporting these trees for a closer look by trained foresters.

How do I report possible EAB?

We are most interested in reports from counties where EAB has not yet been found (see map at eab.missouri.edu). Report locations of ash trees potentially infested with EAB using the online form at eab.missouri.edu or email locations to Forest.Health@mdc.mo.gov.



D-shaped EAB exit hole (left) and woodpecker feeding hole (right).



Bark blinding on ash trees caused by foraging woodpeckers.



Questions? Contact your local forester with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Find contact information for your county and more at mdc.mo.gov.

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